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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Rechlin-Laerz Airfield

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The attached report on observations made at Rechlin-Laerz airfield during the period of 11 May to 9 June

Enclosure: 1 report (3 pages)

TO: Air

SEP 24 11 08 AM '54

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STATE		ARMY		NAVY		AIR		FBI		AEC			
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GERMANY (Russian Zone)

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AIR/MILITARY

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RECHLIN LARZ Airfield Spotchecks: 11 May - 9 Jun 54

1. AIRCRAFT COUNTS

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------|
| (a) | <u>17 May 54:</u> | 26 MIG-15s |
| | | 2 U-MIG-15s |
| | | 1 PO-2 |
| (b) | <u>28 May 54:</u> | 25 MIG-15s |
| | | 1 U-MIG-15 |
| | | 1 LI-2 |
| (c) | <u>3 Jun 54:</u> | 50 MIG-15s |
| | | 1 U-MIG-15 |
| | | 1 LI-2 |
| (d) | <u>9 Jun 54:</u> | 52 MIG-15s |
| | | 1 LI-2 |
| | | 2 PO-2s. |

(During the period all aircraft blast shelters situated around the Southern perimeter of the airfield remained empty.)

2.

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3. FLYING ACTIVITY

- (a) Throughout the period of report, 4 MIG-15s have stood in readiness adjoining the take-off end of the runway.
- (b) Between 11 May and 28 May 54, there was only very slight air activity by MIG-15s. Very rarely more than 4 local sorties per day were undertaken. During this period, no more than 28 MIG-15s were ever visible on the airfield.

On 29 May 54 a flight of 15 MIG-15s in 5 Vics of 3, overflowed the airfield and on the following day another large formation was heard overflying the airfield.

From 1 Jun 54 onwards, there was a distinct increase in the number of sorties undertaken from the airfield, including local air-to-air firing exercises.

- (c) On 3 Jun 54, a U-MIG-15, [] fitted with auxillary wing tanks, was towed by a tractor to the take-off end of the runway. [] was observed to deposit a semi-rigid white Drogue on the grass beside the runway, approx 150 m ahead of the aircraft. Shortly afterwards, the U-MIG-15 started up and took-off snatching the Drogue from the ground. The aircraft then climbed to a height of approx 800 - 1000 m and circled the airfield. In the meantime, 3 MIG-15s [] took-off, one behind the other at approx 500 m intervals and intercepted the U-MIG-15. The 3 MIG-15s proceeded to make individual diving attacks on the Drogue in rapid succession and after the 3 aircraft between them had made 10 attacks, they returned to the airfield and landed. The U-MIG-15 then overflew the airfield across the runway and cast off the Drogue at a height of approx 60 - 80 m, made a further circuit and landed.

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- (d) On 9 Jun 54, 4 PO-2s approached the airfield from the South and landed.

- (e) Night flying took place, on a average, twice weekly throughout the period.

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4. FUEL

On 2 Jun 54, 7 x 2-axled railway tanker [] were observed being shunted on to the airfield siding, which terminates approx 250 m from the Fuel Installation situated in the SE corner of the airfield. This fuel depot consists of 3 large underground former Luftwaffe tanks of unknown capacity, alongside which there are 4 x 4000 l [] fuel Bowsers parked.

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5. AIRFIELD SIDING

The airfield railway siding leads from the main LARZ/ELLERHOLZ railway line on to the Southern perimeter of the airfield and terminates just short of the NW/SE runway. At the junction of the siding with the main railway line, there is a ramp 150 m in length.

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6. AA DEFENCES

The 8 AA gun pits situated in the extreme NW corner of the airfield are occupied by a battery of 76.2 mm HAA guns. Immediately adjoining this site there are 4 semi-underground bunkers measuring approx 8 x 4 m and approx 100 m further South, there is a vast new excavation measuring approx 40 x 20 m, into which concrete is being laid.

A party of approx 100 QRs with black/red sbds occupied this site, living in adjoining hutments.

7. RADIO & RADAR

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No changes have been observed in the static Radio/Radar installations during the period under review. The following equipments have been identified:-

- (a) A TOKEN situated on a hillock on SPROTSCHBERG 50X1-HUM
- (b) A combined site of which there is a KNIFEREST, FISHNET and DUMBO 50X1-HUM
- (c) An ADCOCK type D/F station is situated approx 100 m South of the KNIFEREST site at (b) above. 50X1-HUM
- (d) A radio van fitted with a single whip aerial approx 1 m in height, was parked in the vicinity of the readiness aircraft whenever flying was in progress. 50X1-HUM

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